

Overture Concerning Welcoming the Immigrant

In view of the urgency created by changes in the practice and policies of the United States' Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and related organizations, and

mindful of the hospitality mandate common to the Abrahamic faiths as well as many other traditions ("The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you ..." Lev. 19:33),

the Session of First Presbyterian Church of New Haven overtures the Presbytery of Southern New England to:

1. adopt the New Sanctuary Movement pledge, and
2. encourage its member congregations:
  1. to learn about the needs of the immigrants in their communities,
  2. study the legal implications of support for undocumented immigrants,
  3. consider adopting the New Sanctuary Movement Pledge or a locally appropriate variant of it,
  4. inform their community of their action, and
  5. meet with other organizations engaged in support for immigrant populations in their area and determine the ways in which they can jointly commit to providing support and assistance.

Members of First, New Haven would like to hear what you are experiencing in your community and will be glad to try to answer questions and to meet with you or your church to share what we are learning about the immigrant situation. This is a concern that can bring people of faith together.

#### NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT PLEDGE

The New Sanctuary Movement is an interfaith coalition of religious communities and individuals, called by our faiths to respond actively and publicly to the suffering of our immigrant brothers, sisters residing in the United States.

We acknowledge that the large-scale immigration of workers and their families to the United States is a complex historical, global and economic phenomenon that has many causes and does not lend itself to simplistic or purely reactive public policy solutions.

We stand together in our faith that everyone, regardless of national origin, has basic common rights, including but not limited to: 1) livelihood; 2) family unity; and 3) physical and emotional safety.

We witness the violation of these rights under current immigration policy, particularly in the separation of children from their parents due to unjust detentions and deportations, and in the exploitation of immigrant workers. We are deeply grieved by the violence done to families through immigration raids. We cannot in good conscience ignore such suffering and injustice.

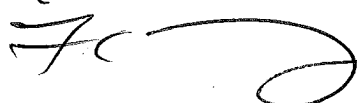
#### Therefore, We Covenant To:

1. Take a public, moral stand for immigrants' rights
2. Reveal, through education and advocacy, the actual suffering of immigrant workers and families under current and proposed legislation
3. Join other faith communities in campaigns to reduce hate, workplace discrimination, and unjust deportation
4. Demonstrate solidarity by accompanying them throughout the process of trying to remain in the US and keep their families together.

Organization Name, phone, address

Authorized Signature

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Clerk of Session